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lutescens.) They are suborbicular in outline, lobed and rooting underneath, as in the true terrestrial species. They also have rudimentary scales at the apices of the lobes underneath. These fronds become immersed by the autumn rains, and during the winter the apices of the lobes thicken and expand greatly. These apices being destitute of rootlets and extremely buoyant, gradually assume a vertical position in the bottom of the pool, and at length (in the spring) become detached and rise to the surface of the water, (where they float in a horizontal position,) often carrying with them portions of the effete base of the frond. In the meantime the scales develop into long purple fringes. *These floating apices alone constitute the L. natans of Linnæus and authors:* (vide Aust. Hep. Exsic. N. 144, A.; also Lindbg. Monogr., p. 115, t. 31 and 32; etc.) They fruit copiously in the vicinity of Albany, N. Y., in the months of May and June (Prof. C. H. Peck). Sometimes the autumn fronds do not become immersed, in this case they remain whole; again the fertile fronds are often left upon the mud by the dessication of the pool in summer; in this case they are plainly continuous from the apex: (vide Hep. Exsic. N. 145; also Herb. Tayl. (in part), under the name of "*Riccia velutina*.—N. Amer. Drummond."

RICCIA LUTESCENS, Schweinitz.

A single frond only of this species was found by me in Sept. 1858, at Closter, N. J. This frond contained a single sporangium! which is about as in *R. crystallina*. The spores are also as in that species. During the past eight years I have not only watched this plant in all the stages of its growth, from the time of its first appearance in the month of June, until its final disappearance in winter, but have collected many specimens of it in the mature state. I have also received numerous specimens of it from many localities, from New England to Canada and Missouri; but not a single one of these specimens shows any trace either of fruit or other kind of reproductive organ whatever! and it is still a mystery how the plant reproduces itself. The young plants make their appearance in great profusion, in the bottoms of exsiccated ditches, &c., in the beginning of summer. These rapidly develop into the sterile plant, which has been most accurately described and figured by Mr. Sullivan: (*Mem. Amer. Acad. Arts & Sci.* (Boston) 4, p. 176, t. 4.) No rootlets are produced underneath the frond above the middle; and as the ditches become filled with water late in autumn, the fragile laciniae break asunder near the middle, in consequence of the extreme buoyancy of their apices. The detached pieces (or apices) rise to the surface of the water, where they remain suspended in an oblique position (the extreme apex only reaching the surface), until they become frozen up in the ice. Upon the ice disappearing in the spring, no trace of any portion of the plant is to be found!

The following reports were read, and referred to the Publication Committee:

REPORT OF THE CURATORS.

In presenting the annual report, the Curators embrace the opportunity of congratulating the Academy on the near prospect of procuring a new and suitable building to accommodate its now crowded and ever increasing collections, both of the museum and library. A plan of the building prepared by Mr. Windrum, the architect, at the suggestion of and in conjunction with a committee of the trustees of the building fund, has been approved by the latter. It is proposed to commence with the foundation of the building, the coming spring, on the fine property obtained by the contributors of the building fund, on the southwest corner of 19th and Race streets, and opposite the beautiful Logan Square. The style of the building is college gothic,

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180 feet in length on Race street, and 65 feet in breadth fronting on 19th street. It is to be fire proof, and it is proposed to construct the walls of green serpentine ornamented with Ohio stone. The estimated cost is about \$125,000, to which we hope an enlightened public, fully appreciating the importance of such an institution as the Academy, will liberally contribute.

The collections of the museum are in their usual condition of preservation, but for want of proper space generally excessively crowded, often partially or totally unarranged, and in some cases in the utmost confusion. The Museum is now too extensive to depend wholly on voluntary labor for its being properly arranged, labeled and catalogued. To accomplish this it is necessary to employ competent persons, and it is to be hoped that before long an effort will be made on the part of the Academy to procure the means essential to the purpose.

The increased attractiveness of the Museum of the Academy, and the almost unrestricted admission of the public, have led to such an increase in the number of visitors as greatly to endanger the condition of the more perishable portions of the collection. During the year the Museum, though open to the public only two afternoons weekly, and though closed during August for cleansing and repairs, was visited by nearly 100,000 persons. In a single afternoon recently there were upwards of 4,500 persons admitted to the Museum. In consequence of the very small amount of unoccupied room the visitors move in nearly continued streams through the narrow intervals of the cabinets, affording little opportunity for the examination of specimens. Beside this disadvantage to those who would really wish to examine the collections, the crowds lead to many accidents, the sum total of which amounts to a considerable destruction of property, in the way of broken glass, light wood work, &c. Further, the excessive clouds of dust produced by the moving crowds, rest upon the horizontal cases, obscuring from view their contents, while it penetrates others much to the detriment of parts of the collection. An annoyance arising from the great number of visitors is due to the necessity of having tickets of admission, provided gratuitously from members of the Academy or from agents authorized to issue them by the Curators.

In view of all these annoyances, inconveniences and detriment to the Museum, attendant on an excessive number of visitors, the Curators would suggest to the Academy the propriety of making a small charge for admission, as the best means of qualifying or removing the various difficulties indicated.

The Curators recommend the charge of a small fee, say ten cents, which will probably be sufficient to moderate the crowds of visitors, and at the same time will be no obstruction to those who are desirous of seeing the Museum. Of course it is not intended to restrict the right of members to visit the Academy in company with their friends at any and at all times according to their convenience.

The donations during the year, to the different departments of the Museum, are as follows:

Mammals.—Two skins and the skeleton of a Lemur, together with the skins of several other mammals from Port Natal, Africa, were presented by the Rev. S. A. Grout. Five other mammals were presented by Dr. James M. Green, U. S. N., Prof. S. D. Gross, George Davidson and John Krider.

Birds.—A special report, on the condition of the ornithological cabinet, has been prepared by the standing committee and is appended to the present one.

Two collections of bird skins from San Domingo, were presented by Wm. M. Gabb; another from Port Natal by the Rev. S. A. Grout; and a collection from St. Martins, W. I., by Dr. H. E. van Rijgersma. A mounted specimen of the Golden Eagle was presented by Frank L. Altemus; a *Lophophorus impeyanus* from Asia, by the Rev. J. L. Scott; and a small collection of birds, in alcohol, from South America, by Prof. E. D. Cope. Specimens of birds were also presented by John Krider, Harvey E. Molé, W. P. Turnbull, [1869.

Mr. Haines and D. G. Elliot. A small collection of bird eggs, from Sable Island, was presented by J. R. Willis.

Reptiles.—A collection of fifteen species from Africa, thirteen from Asia, and nine from Australia, together with five jars of specimens from Uruguay, one jar from New Grenada and other specimens from South America were presented by Prof. E. D. Cope. Two small collections, comprising eighteen species from San Domingo, were presented by Wm. M. Gabb. A small collection from St. Martins, W. I., was presented by Dr. Rijgersma; another from Port Natal, by Rev. S. A. Grout; and three jars from Venezuela, by L. Morgan Davis. Specimens were likewise presented by George Davidson, Dr. Hassler, L. P. Whiting, Capt. J. Barclay, John Krider, Joseph Jeanes and Joseph A. Damon.

Fishes.—Two collections, one of forty-one specimens of twenty-five species, and another of many specimens of sixteen species, from St. Martins, W. I., were presented by Dr. R. E. van Rijgersma of Philipsburg, St. Martins, W. I. Other specimens were presented by Mr. Gabb, A. H. Smith, Dr. I. Hays, Dr. Howel and Jos. Jeanes.

Mollusks.—For the principal donations we refer to the report of the Conservator of the Conchological Section of the Academy.

In addition there were presented two species of cephalopods by Dr. Rijgersma, and small collections of shells by Wm. M. Gabb, Rev. S. A. Grout, Dr. Leconte and S. Powel.

Articulates.—Two collections, comprising seventy specimens of crustaceans, two jars of spiders and one of insects from St. Martins, W. I., were presented by Dr. R. E. van Rijgersma. A collection of myriapods and insects from Port Natal, W. A., was presented by Rev. S. A. Grout; and a jar of myriapods, arachnides and insects from Lower California, by Alfred DuBois. Specimens of crustacea were also presented by George Davidson and Dr. F. A. Genth.

Radiates, &c.—A collection of twelve asterioids, six corals, a large Gorgonia and five species of sponges, from St. Martins, were presented by Dr. Rijgersma. Six species of Echini and Ophiura and a Madrepora, from San Domingo, were presented by Wm. M. Gabb. Several corals were presented by Dr. Hassler, several radiates by S. Powel, and two specimens of Euplectella by the latter and Mr. Crawford Coates.

Fossils.—An additional portion of the Poirrier collection, of vertebrate remains from the miocene and post pliocene formations of the basin of the Loire, France, was presented at the expense of Messrs. E. S. Whelan, Richard Wood, Benjamin Marsh, S. Morris Waln and Wistar Morris. A collection from France and Greece, consisting of remains of Mastodon angustidens, the Cave Bear, Horse, Hipparion, Reindeer, and specimens of prehistoric works of human art, together with casts in plaster of others, was presented by Prof. Ed. Lartet of Paris. A collection of Devonian plants, twenty-four species, from near St. John, N. B., was presented by the Natural History Society of that place. A collection of corals from the corniferous limestone of Canada West, many specimens of twenty-three species, presented by Prof. J. W. Dawson of Montreal. A collection of fragments of several species of extinct turtles, the specimen from which the insectivorous mammal Oromys Carteri was described, and a slab of bituminous shale with clupeoid fishes from near Fort Bridger, Wyoming, were presented by Mr. J. Van A. Carter. A collection of fossil plants was presented by Dr. F. V. Hayden; of infusorial earths by the Smithsonian Institution; of fossil corals by Mr. Sidney S. Lyons; and of fossil cetacean bones from Ashley R., S. C., by Dr. James C. Booth. Teeth of horses and sharks were presented by Thomas H. Streets, H. W. Faucett, Charles Conrad and Dr. H. S. Chapman. Specimens of ceta-

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cean bones were presented by the latter and C. W. Matthews. Other fossil specimens were presented by Col. James Greer, Wm. M. Gabb, Mr. Hornbush, W. Morrison, A. H. Smith, Dr. J. Leconte, T. H. Streets, T. Guilford Smith, Enoch L. Johnson, Louis Godey, P. T. Tyson and George Davidson.

Minerals.—A small collection was presented by T. Guilford Smith. Specimens were also received from Alexander E. Dougherty, J. Blodget Britton, C. W. Matthews, Joseph Wilcox, J. Lawrence Smith, Isaac Lea, John L. LeConte, George Davidson, T. D. Rand, P. W. Sheaffer, Capt. J. Barclay, Mr. Tyson, W. McKee Mason, W. L. Mactier and Joseph Leidy. A few others were also obtained in exchange.

Botany.—A series of Junci representing the monograph of Dr. Engleman, and a series of Potamogeton, collected by Dr. J. W. Robbins, were presented by Mr. E. Durand. A rare fern was presented by Mr. Redfield.

Comparative Anatomy.—A skull of *Hyperaodon bidens* and other portions of the skeleton, from Newport R. I., were presented by Samuel Powel. An artificially elongated human skull from the vicinity of Lake Titicaca, Bolivia, was presented by Dr. J. M. Greene, U. S. N. A collection of bones of the Bison, Wolf, Deer, &c., was presented by Prof. Hayden. Remains of Indian skeletons were presented by Prof. Cope; the jaw of a Dolphin and several teeth of the Sperm Whale, by Dr. Rijgersma, and portions of human muscles with *Trichinæ*, by Dr. J. S. Hough.

Miscellaneous.—Nine jars of vertebrates from St. Martins, W. I., were presented by Dr. Rijgersma. Seven specimens were presented by Prof. S. D. Gross, and several by unknown donors.

Respectfully submitted by

JOSEPH LEIDY,

Chairman of the Curators.

REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COMMITTEE.

The Committee begs leave to report that the following named donations to the collection of birds have been made during the year 1869 :

March.—2 specimens of *Lagopus mutus*, 1 specimen of *Lagopus islandorum*, presented by D. G. Elliott. 1 specimen of *Accipiter Cooperii*, presented by Mr. Haines.

April.—A specimen of *Aythya Americana*, (variety), 1 specimen of *Corvus Americanus*, (albino), 1 specimen of *Cairina moschata*, 1 specimen of *Gracula musica*, presented by Jno. Krider. 2 specimens of *Picus albolarvatus*, ♂ ♀ presented by Wm. P. Turnbull. 1 specimen of *Lophophorus impeyanus*, ♂ presented by J. L. Scott.

May.—Sundry specimens in alcohol, presented by E. D. Cope. 1 mounted specimen of *Larus argentatus*, presented by H. E. Molé. 6 mounted specimens (5 species) of birds from St. Martins, W. D., presented by H. E. Van Rijgersma.

July.—A mounted specimen of *Aquila chrysaetos*, presented by F. L. Altemus. And a collection of skins from Port Natal, Africa, presented by S. A. Grout.

August.—Collection of 30 specimens of skins from St. Domingo, presented by Wm. M. Gabb.

October.—Collection of eggs from Sable Island, presented by J. R. Millis.

December.—21 specimens of skins from St. Domingo, presented by Wm. M. Gabb.

The Committee would further state, that since last spring the work of over-1869.]